

SF-CAIRS Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 11, 2018 9-11am

Host: American Red Cross

1663 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103

Welcome & Introductions – *Cristy Dieterich (SF-DPH/Newcomers Health Program), Linshao Chin, OLSE, Justin Talbott (Jubilee Immigration Advocates), Diane Landino (SF-ORR office), Alina Kovshunova, Julie Anderson, Ben Yang (PanLex), Gustov Rivas (Arriba Juntos), Rita Huang & Persy, Lee (NICOS Chinese Health Coalition), Jennifer LaForce (USCIS), Grace Lau (Refugee Transitions), Naomi Pease (American Red Cross), Cristina Biasetto (Trauma Recovery Center/Survivors International), via phone: Abel Mucyo (Upwardly Global), Sandra Lopea (Partnership for Trauma Recover),*

Partner Agency Presentations:

Guest Presentations:

PanLex is a nonprofit whose mission is to overcome language barriers to human rights, information, and opportunities. Julie Anderson, Director of Programs

Free translator app. Creation web-based tool of multi-lingual dictionary of 5,700 languages- a tool to support interpreters (not replace). Google translate handles 100 languages sentence to sentence. **PanLex translates word to word using multiple language dictionaries.**

What language and vocabulary is needed (legal, medical, DMV, etc.)? **Category glossary** option in the works Provide feedback on categories of usefulness. Email list of words for PanLex to develop.

Can be used by mono-lingual individuals. Helpful tool for ESL students and teachers.

To receive updates on the app and/or provide input, receive newsletters sign up with Julie: anderson@panlex.org

Tools are free. Funding is through foundations and sponsorships.

Translator application :Many minority languages: Khmer, Uiger, Sanskrit, Kechua, Nowaku (Mexican indigenous) Mari, Kechua. Back translate option for more confidence.

Working on phonetic transcriptions.

Coming soon, crossword language learning tool - clues in one language and answers in another.

SF Office of Labor Standards & Enforcement, Minimum Wage / Paid Sick Leave

Linshao Chin, Compliance Officer, Linshao.Chin@sfgov.org (415) 554-6214

Enforce labor laws that are unique to SF, multi-lingual staff and partnership with community partners. OLSE never asks about immigration status and works to keep anonymity of complainant. OLSE supports

- SF Labor Laws- Citywide for anyone working in SF (even if head office is outside SF)
- Minimum wage \$15/hr (CA is \$11/hr)
- Paid Sick Leave – 1 hour per 30 hours worked. Used for self, family, designated person
- Lactation in the workplace
- Health Care Security Ordinance depending on company size
- Family Friendly Workplace Ordinance (20+ employees) right to request flexible work schedule
- Fair Chance Ordinance – can't ask about arrest or conviction on job application

- Paid Parental Leave- supplement to CA Paid Family Leave benefit. 6 weeks fully paid leave supplements CA 55% paid time and SF employer pays the difference.
- Retail Worker Bill of Rights-schedules must be posted 2-weeks in advance
- Salary history – employers must not ask about salary history

Filing a complaint – call, come in, no obligation to file.

Advise to gather documentation and evidence

SF can't override State or Federal employer labor standards. Please see all laws and contact info: www.sfgov.org/olse/contact-us

Chinese Community Problem Gambling Project (CCPGP):

Rita Huang, Project Coordinator and Health Educator & Percy Lee, Health Educator -

Ritahuang@nicoschc.org or Percylee@nicoschc.org <http://www.nicoschc.org>

NICOS Chinese Health Coalition is a public-private-community partnership of more than 30 health and human service organizations and individuals. NICOS has been engaged in advocacy, research, training, coalition-building, and program implementation for the benefit of the population and organization that serve it.

Multiple projects and programs including a health study revealed that 70% identified gambling as a problem in the community. *There are 18 bus trips per day from Chinatown to area casinos.*

Harm reduction approach – understand Social Gambling, Problem Gambling, and Gambling Disorder.

Gambling behavior causes disruptions in major areas of life. Multi-lingual support line: Chinese languages, Korean, Japanese, Tagalog, and others.

SF specific hotline 1-888-968-7888 for counseling and support services.

The CCPGP is part of the state-wide problem gambling project and it is targeting on the Chinese community in San Francisco. We are working with UCLA and office of problem gambling from California department of public health and also licensed, bilingual therapists to provide treatment services to problem gamblers and affected individuals. We are here to bring up the issue of problem gambling in the community and aims to educate the public on how to prevent or address problem gambling.

Announcements, Events:

USCIS staffing and update:

Jennifer LaForce is the new Community Relations Officer covering the SF Bay Area. Her colleague, Nina Sachdev, is based out of San Jose field office and covers Santa Clara area. Jennifer was an Asylum Officer for many years and worked in refugee resettlement overseas in Kenya prior to joining USCIS. The role of the Community Relations Office is to facilitate communication and address stakeholder needs and concerns regarding routine operations, new initiatives and changes in policies and procedures. Please reach out to her when normal channels have been exhausted (i.e. 1-800 number) or using the inquiry method on www.uscis.gov.

Jennifer spoke about the multitude of agencies under the Department, including the three working on Immigration: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They each have distinct missions which, at times, overlap. USCIS ~~provides~~ adjudicates benefits for immigrants. Within USCIS, there are different directorates including: Field Operations (FOD) and Refugee, Asylum and International Operations (RAIO). Field Operations primarily conduct interviews and adjudicates adjustment of status and naturalization applications. RAIO conducts affirmative asylum interviews, refugee interviews (abroad) and credible fear interviews when individuals are claiming asylum at the border. (Note: This is not an exhaustive list of USCIS directorates.) For more information about the USCIS mission and organization, please visit uscis.gov/aboutus.

A few updates:

Starting January 29, 2018, USCIS returned to the asylum interview scheduling priorities that were in place from 1995 to 2014 under asylum reform. Please see the [USCIS News Alert](#) dated January 31, 2018 for more information, including the following:

- 1) Applications that were scheduled for an interview, but the interview had to be rescheduled at the applicant's request or the needs of USCIS;
- 2) Applications that have been pending 21 days or less since filing; and
- 3) All other pending applications, starting with newer filings and working back towards older filings.

Improvements to the posting of case processing times on webpage www.uscis.dhs.gov/processingtimes. There is a pilot underway to test a new calculation method being used on: I-90, I-485, I-751 and N-400 which should help make it clear when something is outside Normal Processing Times. Please see the [News Alert](#) dated March 22, 2018.

USCIS does not issue warrants of arrest or removal orders, nor does USCIS have arrest authority. When USCIS encounters an individual for whom it appears there is an outstanding administrative, civil, or criminal warrant, we will inform the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency.

In early 2018, USCIS ~~will begin~~ began a pilot in five field offices (Hartford, El Paso, Jacksonville, San Francisco, and Sacramento) to prioritize how they provide information services. The pilot will encourage applicants to use USCIS' online information resources and the USCIS contact center for general how-to information and case status information instead of requesting in-person InfoPass appointments. Individuals needing InfoPass appointments are getting them very timely.

Reminders:

- Quarterly Asylum Stakeholder webinars occur. Next Webinar slated for Aug 7, 2018 at 11 am PST.
- USCIS holds quarterly meetings for Legal Service Providers and Community-Based Organizations at their office on 630 Sansome Street. To be included in future invites, please contact Jennifer.m.laforce@uscis.dhs.gov

Jennifer LaForce Jennifer.M.LaForce@uscis.dhs.gov
Community Relations Officer

USCIS (San Francisco and San Jose)
630 Sansome Street, Rm 1090
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 248-8654 – office

MPI is a great resource and guides on immigration topics and changes.
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>

Note from **Jubilee Immigration Advocates**: Concern that evidence grows stale after several years, which makes it hard for applicants and legal providers to re-cap evidence. For new applicants who get expedited there are challenges with putting case together on short notice. 287,000 nation-wide backlog.

American Red Cross – working with immigration shelters to provide free calls, mostly at border. ARC providing resources and support to shelters.
Red Cross Messages – provides services to send/deliver

Refugee Transitions provides free home-based tutoring available. Please contact: Grace Lau grace@reftrans.org to refer an English-learner.

Survivors International: Cristina Biasetto, LCSW (415) 437-3049 cristina.biasetto@sfdph.org
Trauma Recover Center's Survivors International – program for individuals that have experienced persecution and/or torture in their home country. Counseling, therapy, and case management services. Services in Spanish, Mandarin, English, Portuguese, with in-person interpreters in Arabic, Russian, Mongolian. Referrals from attorneys and Refugee Medical Clinic, community-based agencies. Free psychological and medical evaluations for asylum seekers on site.

Nor-Cal Asylum Benefits Orientation -. Friday, July 27th - 1:15pm. 75 Hawthorne St. SF. If you are not accompanying a new asylee please email Cristy.Dieterich@sfdph.org to get on the security list. The following one is Aug 24.

Networking & Meeting Evaluation

Evaluation questions with responses:

* What topics or panel would you like to see presented for future meetings?

[Wonderful to learn more about SF Labor Laws](#)

* Are there community partners or agencies who could add to or benefit from the network of SFCAIRS?

* What did you enjoy most about today's meeting?

[USCIS presence](#)
[The entire meeting](#)

Send group emails to: sf-cairs@googlegroups.com

2018 Quarterly SF-CAIRS Meetings: Jan 10, Apr 11, Jul 11, Oct 10

Next meeting: Wednesday, Oct 10, 2018– 9-11am

SF-CAIRS Mission

SF-CAIRS aims to serve San Francisco Bay Area asylee, immigrant and refugee communities and its service providers by:

Expanding knowledge and access to health, employment, social, education and legal services;

Supporting advocacy efforts through coalition-wide networking, information sharing, cross-referrals and community education; and,

Identifying and addressing challenges faced by immigrants at personal and societal levels